

EFFECT OF WEATHER ON CROPS AND FARMING OPERATIONS, JULY, 1921.

By J. WARREN SMITH, Meteorologist.

[Weather Bureau, Washington, D. C., Aug. 29, 1921.]

Weather conditions throughout the month of July were generally favorable for outdoor activities in all sections of the country, except that near the close haying and harvesting were delayed by rains in local areas, particularly in the Northeast. Until the last few days of the month, temperatures remained unseasonably high over practically all of the country from the central and upper Rocky Mountains eastward. The month was cooler than normal in the extreme Southeast and parts of the Southwest, while frosts were reported during the first week in the Northwest. While some crops suffered from heavy to excessive rainfall in a few places, in parts of the Great Central Valleys and some Atlantic coast districts the month was almost rainless until the closing days, causing, with the heat, conditions which proved very damaging. Corn suffered severely in much of the Ohio and central Mississippi Valleys, although rain near the end of the month greatly improved its condition in much of this region. Harvest of corn was in progress in Texas at the close, with favorable results.

The harvesting of winter wheat was practically completed during the month, weather conditions being exceptionally favorable for this work in most districts. Thrashing also made excellent progress. The warm and dry weather the first of the month was unfavorable in most of the spring-wheat belt, where the crop matured

too rapidly, and yields, where harvesting was accomplished, were disappointing. Oats and barley also suffered from unfavorable weather conditions.

Potatoes developed fairly well in northeastern districts, but deteriorated in all sections where dry weather and unusual heat prevailed, until the close of the month when cooler weather and good rains benefited the crop greatly.

In the cotton belt temperatures were generally about normal until the latter part of the month, when they exceeded the normal, and most sections received sufficient moisture, except that portions of the more western Gulf States were too dry, and locally in the central and extreme eastern areas an unfavorable amount of moisture was reported, causing shedding and an increase of weevil activity as well as grassy fields.

Pastures and meadows were unfavorably affected by dry weather in interior sections of the country and in some upper Plateau districts, but very beneficial rains received in the southern Plateau areas and in other portions of the far Southwest during the last half of the month, greatly improved the grazing areas.

Citrus fruits were generally favorably affected by the weather, although there was considerable orange drop in California. Deciduous fruits made good advance in the West and Northwest.